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..... WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
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Marketing Reports Division
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1.9422 A8H53 HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week Ending November 24, 1944

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## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Apples -- Past week 1,546 cars moved from producers to wholesalers, bringing season's carlot movement to 26,644 cars against 186,426 same date 1943. Wholesale prices remain same level as previous week. Varieties mostly quoted are: Jonathans, Ortleys, Delicious, Winesaps, Rome Beauties, Spitzenburgs and Newtown Pippins.

Cabbage -- Supplies expected heavier during next week or ten days. 414 cars moved into wholesale market past week. 789 cars moved, same period 1943. Wholesale prices western markets mostly \$2.50 and \$3.00 per crate trimmed stock.

Cauliflower -- Rail shipments equal 2,356 cars compared with 1,686 in same period 1943. Shipments fell off last week to 139 cars. Shipments may increase first of December. Prices wholesale western markets \$2.00 to \$2.50 per crate local number 1 stock.

<u>Lettuce</u> -- At close of week saw 7,301 cars of fall crop move to wholesale markets compared with 6,818 cars same period 1943. Western wholesale prices ranged \$3.75 to \$4.75 per crate of 4 doz. heads of No.1 stock.

Potatoes -- Season's shipments in the United States, at week's end totalled 147,039 cars compared with 163,983 in 1943 to same date. Idaho season shipments total 15,116 cars, 16 cars more than same period of 1943. Considering the short crop this year compared with the crop in 1943 and the reverse condition with respect to the total shipments, it appears that producers are not storing to the same extent as 1943. If the same rate of shipment continues for the balance of the season late spring may find potato supplies low, provided of course, civilian consumption is in proportion to the present carlot movement.

## DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter -- Civilian supplies continued very low during week as production receipts and reserve stocks continued to decline. However, volume of butter moving into retail trade was for the most part, larger than a year ago.

Eggs -- Civilian demand continued beyond available fresh supplies. Even small eggs advanced on most western markets to range from  $38\frac{1}{2}$  to 46 cents per dozen, within 10 to 12 cents under wholesale for large grade A eggs. Reports indicate demand for all sizes and grades at close of week, was far in excess of available supplies.

Poultry -- In most quarters late arrivals for Thanksgiving market resulted in a carryover, as civilians bought colored hens to offset insufficient supply small sized turkeys.

The War Food Administration announced cooperation with the Army for procurement of chickens for overseas and hospital use. It is anticipated sale of chickens in designated poultry areas may be limited to authorized processors for Army procurement. Initial area to be restricted is the Delaware, Maryland, Virginia area. The set aside order is still to be issued.

### LIVESTOCK AND MEAT

Hogs -- Effective November 26, War Food Order No.75 has been amended to establish d finite support prices of \$2.25 under the OPA ceiling in effect on November 15, 1944 for buying stations other than Chicago, and has established support prices to include hogs between 240 lbs. to 270 lbs.

Receipts on the twelve principal markets totalled 302,300 head at the close of the week, 18 percent of total receipts for the week previous. On the 4 western livestock markets hog receipts dropped 29 percent under the previous week resulting in a total of 10,845 head. At the opening of the week hog prices declined as much as 25 cents on some of the markets. However, at the close of the week most markets had regained  $25\phi$  and top prices quoted for 200 to 270 lb. barrows and gilts were up to \$15.50 per hundred weight.

<u>Cattle</u> -- Estimated receipts of livestock on the 4 western markets for this past week total 26,751 head or 1.6 percent below the revised and actual receipts on those markets for the previous week. On the 12 principal markets receipts were 221,400 head, or 18 percent below actual receipts for the previous week.

Prices on all grades showed gains up to  $25\phi$  per hundredweight, and good to choice steers brought top prices of \$14.50 to \$15.25 per hundredweight.

Sheep -- Receipts of sheep and lambs on the twelve principal markets declined 18 percent during the week to 221,200 head, while on the 4 western markets receipts were up 5.9 percent over the previous week to a total of 31,211 head.

Prices on good to choice lamb increased slightly in the Pacific Northwest and dropped approximately on equal amount or twenty-five to 50 cents in the Southwest. Top prices ranged \$14.00 to \$14.25, although one lot brought \$14.90.

### GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat -- Pacific Northwest trading past week has been limited, reasons being light offerings from country dealers and growers and lack of sufficient rail facilities for handling the grain.

Indications in Pacific Northwest are that winter wheat acreage is smaller than anticipated due to dry weather during fall months. Cash bid prices on the exchange closed the week at \$1.53 per bushel for soft white and western red wheat of ordinary protein, basis No.1 grade in bulk with a 15 day shipment for coast delivery permit.

Receipts of wheat at the 9 principal markets at the close of this week totalled 2,938 cars compared with 2,875 cars at the end of the previous week and 2,543 cars for the same period one year ago.

Barley — Number 2 Western barley weighing 45 lbs. per bushel closed the week in the Pacific Northwest at \$47.25 per ton. In California the barley market was somewhat weaker than the previous week and prices quoted were mostly \$2.10 per hundred. In Kansas City the demand for the better grades was good and barley prices were generally unchanged, although low grade stock moved slowly. No.2 barley brought \$1.02 to \$1.04 per bushel.

Beans -- Stocks of dry beans in California warehouses as of November 1 were 2,481,000 bags, the lowest since the 1933-34 season.

Cotton -- Reports indicate that rains and labor shortages in the cotton producing areas have delayed harvesting. However, both picking and ginning is making satisfactory progress.

On the ten cotton markets, middling 5/16 inch cotton averaged 21.33 cents per lb. at the close of the week, compared with 21.36 cents for the previous week and 19.38 cents per lb. for the same period one year ago.

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P.L.H. 11/28/44

